

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 262240Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5077

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1217

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJECT: FINAL ELECTION TALLIES STILL NOT IN

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1163

1. AS OF MARCH 26, THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CCE) HAS ISSUED NO ADDITIONAL DEFINITIVE ELECTION RETURNS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE SAN VICENTE DEPARTMENTAL ELECTROAL COUNCIL ISSUED CREDENTIALS TO THE WINNERS OF MUNICIPAL RACES (12 FOR PCN, ONE FOR UNO), MAKING IT ONLY THE SECOND DEPARTMENT TO DO SO, BUT DID NOT RELEASE THE VOTE TALLY. THE PCN MUNICIPAL VICTORIES IN SAN VICENTE ARE AT ODDS WITH THE CCE'S PRELIMINARY FIGURES AND CONTRADICT EARLIER PRESS ACCOUNTS, ALLEGEDLY BASED ON CCE SOURCES, WHICH CREDITED UNO WITH WINNING FIVE MUNICIPALITIES THERE, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE GOES INTENDS TO "REFINE" THE RESULTS TO ITS SATISFACTION.

2. EVEN PCN SUPPORTERS ARE OCCASIONALLY HEARD TO GRUMBLE PRIVATELY ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF THE DISPUTED ELECTIONS ALTHOUGH PCN AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE HAD VERY LITTLE TO SAY PUBLICLY ABOUT THE CONTEST. WHILE APPRENTLY RESIGNED TO THEIR FATE, OPPOSITION GROUPS CONTINUE TO FIRE AN OCCASIONAL SALVO OF PROTEST AGAINST ALLEGED GOVERNMENT FRAUD. IN A FULL-PAGE ADVERTISEMENT, FUDI CHARGED THAT ORDEN AND THE SECURITY FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE NATIONAL GUARD, HAD OPENLY INTEFERED WITH THE
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FREE CASTING AND TABULATION OF VOTES. AS A RESULT, FUDI CLAIMED IT HAD BEEN CHEATED OF ONE OF THE TWO LEGISLATIVE

ASSEMBLY SEATS AND ONE OF THE THREE MUNICIPALITIES THAT
IT HAD RIGHTFULLY WON IN AHUACHAPAN. AND, COMMENTING ON THE
RELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CCE (REFTEL), FUDI LAMENTED
THAT IT SEEMED THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD NEVER HAVE FREE
ELECTIONS.
MOSKOWITZ

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